

Recommendation to the Department of Energy

No. 2009-06

Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board

**Support for Innovative Approaches to Community Outreach on Environmental
Restoration Work
at TA-21 at Los Alamos National Laboratory**

Background

The Northern New Mexico Citizens Advisory Board (NNMCAB) has established a Community Outreach Ad Hoc Committee (CABCO) to develop and execute innovative approaches to fulfill one of the NNMCAB's mission statements: to provide information to and receive input from the communities affected by the environmental cleanup efforts at Los Alamos National Laboratory. Another Recommendation, No. 2009-09, will generically address using CABCO in cooperative communication efforts with Los Alamos Site Office/ Los Alamos National Security, LLC (LASO/LANS.)

This recommendation specifically addresses the work at TA-21. The NNMCAB recognizes that there is an exceptional opportunity provided by funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) to make immediate progress in cleanup efforts at TA-21 with the removal of buildings and facilities. This project can be used as an example of the various aspects involved in planning and executing an environmental restoration project. In addition, planning for the cleanup of MDA-B at TA-21 is underway and also presents an immediate opportunity to communicate with the surrounding communities on the process of environmental cleanup in an area that is adjacent to commercial businesses and in a location that will be available for future use by Los Alamos residents.

Comment

The NNMCAB tries to develop effective ways to communicate with the general public on the often complex requirements, evaluations and options for solutions to environmental restoration work on legacy waste sites at LANL. We also are very enthusiastic to cooperate with LASO/LANS on developing specific and innovative programs to promote this community outreach in the four Northern New Mexico counties represented on the CAB.

For example, one idea that has had a lot of support is to provide information to elementary and highschool students that demonstrates the whole process of an environmental cleanup effort performed by DOE using the TA-21 project at LANL as the basis. The visual opportunities provided by web-based technology, video streaming and interactive computer modeling can be used effectively with this audience. There may be

other ideas directed toward adults as well, all based upon the real-time opportunities in progress at TA-21.

Recommendations:

1. The NNMCAB recommends that LASO/LANS support and develop innovative communications programs based upon the work to be performed at TA-21 in FY10 and FY11. We further recommend that web based tools and other interactive software be incorporated into these programs. Schools would be a good platform for this technology.
2. The NNMCAB would be pleased to assist in community outreach activities with LASO/LANS for TA-21.

Intent

The intent of this Recommendation is to support community outreach objectives using innovative approaches that would make use of web-based tools to demonstrate actual work being performed at TA-21.

Effect

The effect of this Recommendation will be to accelerate the community outreach goals of NNMCAB, DOE EM, and LASO/LANS to present clear and real time information on cleanup of legacy waste at TA-21.